

## **State Water Board Presentation on its Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

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**Summary:** This item provides background for the Council as it considers flow criteria issues in the Delta. It will feature a presentation by State Water Resources Control Board (Board) staff, and includes background materials provided by the Board.

Water Code section 85086 requires the Board, for the purpose of informing planning decisions for the Delta Plan and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), to develop new flow criteria to protect public trust resources for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. The statute further requires the State Board to submit its flow criteria determinations to the Delta Stewardship Council within 30 days of completing the determinations.

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### **Background**

The Board adopted the record described in this memo on August 8, 2010, before the statutory deadline for transmittal to the Council and the BDCP.

The Board developed the report by focusing on Delta outflow (fresh water that moves into and through the Delta and San Francisco Bay, and then the ocean). These outflows were considered a primary driver of the Delta ecosystem, and essential for restoring and promoting viable self-sustaining populations of aquatic species.

The legislature required that that the flow criteria report shall:

- include the volume, quality, and timing of water necessary for the Delta ecosystem;
- be developed within nine months of enactment of SB 1;
- be submitted to the Council within 30 days of completion;
- inform planning decision for the Delta Plan and the BDCP;
- be based on review of existing water quality objectives and the use of the best available science;
- be developed in a public process by the State Board as a result of an informational proceeding conducted under the board's regulations;
- not be considered predecisional with regard to any subsequent State Water Board consideration of a permit, including any permit in connection with a final BDCP;
- inform any State Water Board order approving a change in the point of diversion of the State Water Project or the federal Central Valley Project from the southern Delta to a point on the Sacramento River.

The full report prepared by the Board can be viewed on its website at:[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/deltaflow/docs/draft\\_report072010.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/docs/draft_report072010.pdf)

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 - PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment 2 - Delta Environmental Flows Group Introductory Presentation (Presented March 22-24)

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/deltaflow/defg\\_presentation.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/deltaflow/defg_presentation.shtml)

Attachment 3 – Executive Summary for the State Board Draft Development of Flow Criteria for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Ecosystem

### **Contact**

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